

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended, and claim 6 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 7-15 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested based upon the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein). The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020176583 to Buttiker in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20060018890 to Hale et al. ("Hale").

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter. Independent claim 3 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6, and claim 6 is herewith canceled. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, independent claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter warranting allowance of claim 6. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claim 1 is likewise allowable over the applied art. Claims 2 and 4-15 depend variously from independent claims 1 and 3, and are likewise patentable over the applied art for at least their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP

/Yoon S Ham/
Yoon S. Ham
Registration No. 45,307

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
YSH/ERM
Date: November 27, 2007